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**The Iowa Blind History Archive  
History of Blindness in Iowa - Oral History Project  
Interview with [Name]  
Conducted by [Name]  
[Date]  
Transcribed by [Name]**

**NOTE: Any text included in brackets [ ] is information that was added by the narrator after reviewing the original transcript. Therefore, this information is not included in the audio version of the interview.**

**Steve Hunt, Age 33, Des Moines  
Mike Hicklin  
Iowa Department for the Blind, 524 Fourth Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
10/4/2010  
Second Interview**

**Mike Hicklin: This is Mike Hicklin. Steve Hunt is the person that we will continue collecting stories with today. This**

**recording is being taken at the Iowa Department for the Blind building in Des Moines, Iowa. Today's date is October 4, 2010, and it's approximately 11:15 a.m. All stories submitted to this project will become part of the History of Blindness Collection owned by the Iowa Department for the Blind. By submitting your story, you are acknowledging that your story is a gift, which transfers to the Iowa Department for the Blind all legal title and all literary property rights. You will be granting the Iowa Department for the Blind an unrestricted license to use your recording and all the information which it contains, in any manner the Department for the Blind may wish to use it, for as long as the Iowa Department for the Blind wishes to use it. Do you agree to have your story recorded, Steve?**

**Steve Hunt: Yes, I do.**

**Hicklin: Okay. Tell us, again, your name, age and where you live; your address, that sort of thing.**

**Hunt: Okay. Well, my name is Steven Hunt. My current age is 33, and I currently live at 107 North Division Street. And do you need my apartment number?**

**Hicklin: Sure.**

**Hunt: Okay, #102 in Creston, Iowa.**

**Hicklin: Okay, what would you like to talk about today?**

**Hunt: Well, as I have heard about this project, I do remember that there were some things that I did do**

**differently perhaps as a college student, or even at work. And, as I have thought about this project, I just let my mind go along and I just searched my head, because I thought you will eventually think of something. And, I did remember one thing that came to my head this morning. I worked in the Creston Public Library from July of 2005 to March of 2009. And, one of the things that I do remember about the library was that it was set up like any other library that you would typically expect to encounter. In fact, I was even surprised to find that there was one book that did have a small amount of Braille on it. Right now, I do not remember the title of the book or what the topic was about. I wish I did, but it was a place that I was able to work along fairly well in. I did the best that I could, because I did a lot of work in the upper story of the library.**

**Hicklin: What kind of work were you doing, Steve?**

**Hunt: The kind of work that I was doing was that I would take books that had been returned, and I would put them in alphabetical order, as well as the magazines; all of which were on cards. I also had a few newspapers that I would put away. And, I would continue to do this as long as time allowed, or until the supply of things to put away had been taken care of. And, this was something that I generally enjoyed. I don't ever remember complaining about the lighting, but I was a little surprised, because I thought the lighting was a little bit better upstairs than they said it was. I could see how when the light came from its source, the light would be projected toward the ceiling. This wouldn't be a big problem in the summer, because the library had two large arched windows on the north and south walls. But, I**

**did hear the comment that I wonder how so-and-so...Because so-and-so does not know about this project, I am just going to leave out that person's name.**

**Hicklin: Certainly.**

**Hunt: Yeah. I wonder how so-and-so is able to see in this room after 4:00 o'clock, because winter gets so dark so early in Iowa with Iowa being a northern state. In order to cope with the lighting problem, Brenda Criswell, who was a Rehabilitation Counselor at the time, or pardon me; I think she became a Job Employment Specialist...mailed to me a lighted magnifying glass, and this generally seemed to do the trick. Believe me, I really did get the use out of that magnifier, which I still have, but it needs new batteries. It needs to have some new batteries put inside it. Anyway, I do think that the library staff did cope with the disability as best they could. They understood that I did have some problems with my vision. I never made them conform to my problem. Instead, I just tried to deal with the vision issue as best I could.**

**Hicklin: Where did the vision become a problem? Did you have to look up print information on the books or magazines to know how to sort them or put them away?**

**Hunt: Usually, the print was large enough that I did not generally have that problem.**

**Hicklin: On the books, for instance. Was there, like, a Dewey Decimal System number you had to look at to know where to put the books then?**

**Hunt: Oh yes. I did that for the nonfiction, and then we did have one interesting problem though with some of our books. Some of the code that we all use, Dewey Decimal, as well as fiction or western with the first three letters of each word had been written on a small piece of paper, and then taped to the spine of the book. And, this had been done long enough ago with some of the books that the print was hard to read, because it had been done with a pencil and not a typewriter.**

**Hicklin: Probably many years ago.**

**Hunt: And so, I would take some of the books that I thought had faded spines. And, the biggest problem here was judgment, because I had to learn how to do this, and sometimes it was tricky, because I wasn't quite sure if it was faded enough or not or bright enough or not. And, if the book was just too faded to be able to read the book code for that book, I would go and place it on the desk of the lady who worked on the upper level of the library.**

**Hicklin: Sounds like a good technique, and a good way to deal with it.**

**Hunt: Yeah. Only one other person did seem to have a concern about how I could read the books, and she was actually a high school classmate who did not know that I had been working at the library until we met at my ten year high school reunion. And, that's when she found out, because I had not really had much of an opportunity to tell her. In fact, what I did was, I wrote down what I was doing,**

**because I had been mailed a questionnaire like every other class member, and we just mailed all our questionnaires to my classmate, who was in Jefferson. And, I am going to leave out her name, because obviously, she does not know that I am doing this.**

**Hicklin: Okay.**

**Hunt: I don't remember right now how I answered that question, but I did try to give her an answer that worked, believe me. That was in 2006, so it's been a few years.**

**Hicklin: Anything else you've thought of about the library?**

**Hunt: It was a job that I generally enjoyed. To me, a bad day was just 94% or lower, and that rarely happened. It's kind of like American Bandstand. I like the song, it has a good beat and I can dance to it, and I give it a 95 or greater.**

**Hicklin: Any other thoughts that you'd like to get recorded, Steve?**

**Hunt: I have just enjoyed giving this interview, and if I can think of anything more, I will certainly talk to somebody or email someone what I've been thinking about for future material.**

**Hicklin: What is your...What are you currently doing job-wise?**

**Hunt: I am currently working at the Creston News Advertiser delivering newspapers.**

**Hicklin: Is that like a route?**

**Hunt: Yes, I have been doing two routes since the year 2007.**

**Hicklin: Is that something you do once a week or daily or?**

**Hunt: It's a Monday through Friday job.**

**Hicklin: And, do you deliver then shoppers all over town, both business and residential, or?**

**Hunt: Oh, I only deliver the shoppers usually on Wednesdays, and just to residences. There is somebody, at least one person, if not more, who delivers to businesses.**

**Hicklin: How large of a town is Creston?**

**Hunt: I have heard there are as many as 10,000 people, but I think it's about 7,500 people within the community. And then you include the people who live on farms not far away, and I think that's how they're counting 10,000.**

**Hicklin: That would be a lot of shoppers.**

**Hunt: Yes, it would be.**

**Hicklin: Any other thoughts come to mind?**

**Hunt: I'm not sure I would know where to start.**

**Hicklin: Well, we certainly hope you had a good time here at Alumni Banquet Weekend.**

**Hunt: Thank you.**

**Hicklin: It's certainly good to see all you guys and gals as alumni.**

**Hunt: Yes.**

**Hicklin: Anyway, thank you, again, for telling us your story and we certainly appreciate that. This will be included in the story line. Thank you.**

**Hunt: Yes, this is a miniaturized version of New York City; we don't have 8,000,000 stories to tell. We just have our own stories to tell.**

**Hicklin: You bet. Those are the best ones.**

**Hunt: This is part of America's story.**

**Hicklin: Thank you, Steve.**

**Hunt: You're welcome.**

**13:59  
(End of Recording)**

**Jo Ann Slayton  
7/22/2011**